

Appln. No.: 09/818,792
Amdt. Dated April 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method that enables a recipient to inform a carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants some or all of their mail delivered, said method comprises the steps of:

depositing by [the]a sender with the carrier mail containing the recipient's name and physical address and a sender's name and address;

capturing by the carrier the name and physical address of the recipient and the sender in the form of an image;

transmitting the image to a data center where the image is processed by translating the image consisting of text and graphics to selected alphanumerics;

translating by a data center the name and physical address of the recipient into an e-mail address;

notifying by the data center to the recipient of the [availability]expected delivery of the deposited mail and indicating the selected alphanumerics of the translated image;

notifying by the recipient to the data center of the manner in which the recipient wants some or all of their mail delivered;

notifying by the data center to the carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered; and

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delivering mail by the carrier to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

2. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to a specified name and address.
3. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to return the mail to the sender.
4. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to open the mail.
5. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
 informing the carrier to extract the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
 mailing by e-mail the information included in contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.
6. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
 informing the carrier to extract the contents of the mailpiece to one or more specified e-mail addresses; and
 mailing by e-mail the information included in contents of the mailpiece to the specified e-mail addresses.

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7. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
 informing the carrier to extract the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
 sending the information contents of the mailpiece to the recipient's personal data
 assistant.
8. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
 informing the carrier to extract the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient; and
 reading the information contents of the mailpiece to the recipient via telephone.
9. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
 informing the carrier to send by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the
 recipient; and
 mailing by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the recipient.
10. (Original) The method claimed in claim 4, further including the steps of:
 informing the carrier to facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to one or more
 specified facsimile numbers; and
 sending by facsimile the contents of the mailpiece to the specified facsimile
 numbers.
11. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the
 carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient at a different address.

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12. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a slower delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

13. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to deliver the mail to the recipient by a faster delivery method than that paid for by the sender.

14. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail.

15. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

16. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
charging the recipient for receiving notification of the availability of the deposited mail; and
charging the recipient for delivering mail to the recipient in the manner specified by the recipient to the carrier.

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17. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:
informing the sender of the delivery of the mail.
18. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to hold the mail for a specified period of time.
19. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to destroy the mail.
20. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies the carrier to recycle the material comprising the mail.
21. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via e-mail of the availability of the deposited mail.
22. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via telephone of the availability of the deposited mail.
23. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via facsimile of the availability of the deposited mail.
24. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient is notified via television of the availability of the deposited mail.

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25. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via e-mail of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.
26. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via facsimile of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.
27. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the carrier is notified via telephone of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.
28. (Previously presented) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient notifies a data center who notifies the carrier of the manner in which the recipient wants the mail delivered.
29. (Original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the mail deposited with the carrier contains a graphic.
30. (Original) The method claimed in claim 29, wherein the graphic is a stamp.
31. (Original) The method claimed in claim 29, wherein the graphic is a postal indicia.
32. (Original) The method claimed in claim 29, wherein the graphic is a permit.

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33. (Original) The method claimed in claim 29, wherein the graphic is carrier symbology.

34. (Original) The method claimed in claim 29, wherein the graphic is captured and translated.

35. (Original) The method claimed in claim 29, wherein the graphic is stored.